

WATER QUALITY TEAM MEETING NOTES

**September 9, 2003
National Marine Fisheries Service Offices
Portland, Oregon**

1. Introductions and Review of the Agenda.

Mark Schneider of NMFS, WQT chair, and facilitator Robin Harkless welcomed everyone to the meeting, held September 9 at the National Marine Fisheries Service's offices in Portland, Oregon. The meeting agenda and a list of attendees are attached as Enclosures A and B. Please note that some of the enclosures referenced in these meeting notes may be too lengthy to routinely attach to the minutes; please contact Kathy Ceballos (503/230-5420) to obtain copies.

2. Conversion from CHROMS to CWMS Database Modeling.

Jim Adams from the Corps distributed copies of a recent article from *Hydropower & Dams* Magazine describing the Corps' changeover to the new CWMS ("Swims") database modeling system (Enclosure C). CWMS was described as a new automated information system to support the Corps' water management mission. He briefly described the new system, and referred the other meeting participants to Enclosure C for full details on CWMS. The detailed presentation originally scheduled on this topic at today's meeting was deferred to a future WQT agenda.

3. Review and Comment on Corps Water Management Plan Water Quality Section.

This is the main topic for today's meeting, said Schneider; he asked Adams to lead the discussion of this agenda item. Adams noted that the deadline for comments on the 2004 Water Management Plan proper is tomorrow. The water quality appendix is directed at how the Corps manages dissolved gas at the eight mainstem projects; it is this appendix, specifically, that we're hoping to receive comments on at today's meeting, Adams said. He noted that all WQT comments on the Water Management Plan itself should be coordinated through each agency's TMT representative, to ensure a concise and unified set of comments on the 2004 WMP.

Schneider noted that the longtime understanding of the region is that, when it comes to the Water Management Plan and the water quality appendix, the WQT is the technical body to which the TMT turns for expert review. Given the fact that we just received these documents last week, said Schneider, it may be too much to expect for us to provide our comments by tomorrow. For future reference, he said, one of our jobs

here at the WQT is to provide expert review of the water quality portions of the Corps' plans; it would be helpful to have a bit more time to read and respond. So noted, said Adams. It was agreed to see what comments are received at today's meeting before deciding whether or not the WQT will need an extended comment period.

Scott Boyd noted that the 2004 WMP has not changed substantially from last year's edition; as you're aware, he said, this document is part of the annual planning process called for in the 2000 BiOp. He noted that the timing specified for the delivery of this document is not ideal, primarily because the results from the summer research season are not yet available during the time when this document is being drafted. Boyd and Adams then went briefly through some of the changes to be found in the 2004 Water Management Plan.

With that, the group devoted the next hour to review, comments and questions on the draft 2004 WMP. Some of the main focal points for these comments included:

- The spill priority list at the end of the document
- The definition of voluntary vs. involuntary spill, and how spill is accounted for
- Whether the Camas/Washougal fixed monitoring station should continue to be referenced as a control point in the 2004 WMP, given the fact that the RPA 132 work group has recommended that it be moved.
- Section 6.2 – reference the fact that this is a work in progress, pending results from the 2003 season, and plans for 2004 are not yet finalized.

Schneider said his intent is to take the comments provided at today's meeting, and draft a unified set of WQT comments which he will then provide, in his capacity as WQT chair, to Adams. Margaret Filardo said she will provide Schneider an electronic version of the Fish Passage Center's comments to include in his unified comments. Schneider said he will provide the WQT's comments on the water quality appendix to Adams by Friday, September 19. Schneider asked that any additional written comments from the WQT membership be provided to him as soon as possible.

4. Report on WQT Presentation to IT on the RPA 143 Draft Final Report on Water Temperature Modeling and Data Collection Plan for the Lower Snake Basin.

Schneider said he had provided a report on the status of the RPA 143 report at last week's Implementation Team meeting; he noted that the IT offered a number of complementary comments. The next step is for us to present the report to the TMT at an upcoming meeting, Schneider said. The IT also asked that we provide a demonstration of the "hindcasting" capabilities of the model at its November meeting, he added. In other words, said Schneider, in identifying the model and monitoring strategy, we have achieved a major milestone; the next step is to breathe life into the model, a task in which Mike Schneider's group is now engaged.

5. Other.

Harkless said the Water Quality Plan Work Group will brief the WQT on their activities at the WQT's October meeting.

Adams said the Corps' annual review of the Water Quality year will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 16, in Room 118 of the Corps' Custom House offices. The meeting will include presentations from Portland District, Seattle District and Walla Walla District, as well as some of the PUD operators. Adams noted that the primary purpose of this meeting is to provide a quick review of what was accomplished in 2003, as well as the initial thinking on plans for 2004. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend, Adams said. And eventually, this information will find its way into the Corps' 2003 year-end report? Schneider asked. Correct, Adams replied.

6. Next WQT Meeting Date.

The October Water Quality Team meeting was deferred to allow the WQT membership to attend the Corps' October 16 year-end water quality review. The November WQT meeting was set for Tuesday, November 11. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle,